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a first substrat comprising a plurality of reflection electrodes with a gap portion formed therebetween, a second substrate opposing said first substrat having a transparent electrode, and a liquid crystal material being put between said first and said second substrates, wherein said first substrate has a shading layer at at least part of said gap portion and wherein said shading layer exhibits a different reflection characteristic from said reflection electrodes.

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of any changes to the claims and the remarks herein. Please contact the undersigned to conduct a telephone interview in accordance with MPEP 713.01 to resolve any remaining requirements and/or issues prior to sending another Office Action. Relevant portions of MPEP 713.01 are included on the signature page of this amendment.

Applicants elect claim group I (claims 1-13, 16-30 and 34-38) without traverse. Claim 39 is added by this amendment.

The claims have been amended in response to the Examiner's rejections. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested in view thereof.

The Examiner states that the term "'the liquid crystal device' is a term that is not consistent with the terminology of the art." Applicants can be their own lexicographers. However, if the Examiner suggest language that the Examiner believes is more acceptable, applicants will consider amending the claims accordingly.

Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 USC 102 and 103 over Miyawaki et al. (5,708,486) which has a priority date of September 12, 1996. The present applicant is a continuation of U.S. Appn. S rial No. 08/803,210 fil d February 21, 1997 which is a

continuation of U.S. Appn. S rial No. 08/431,370 filed April 28, 1995. Thus, Miyawaki et al. is not prior art to applicant's invention.

Support for added claim 39 is found at ([p, l] refers to page and line of specification):

[6, 9] "substrate 14".

[6, 5] "plurality of spatial light modulators 10".

[6, 15] "bottom electrode mirror".

[8, 17-18] "opening 56 between electrode/mirrors 30 and 33 (partially shown left side of 30 in Fig. 1)".

[6, 14] "top electrode 28 which may be of indium tin oxide".

Fig. 1 shows light 54 and 58 passing through substrate 29 and top electrode 28.

Liquid crystal material 26 [6,13-14] is shown in Fig. 2 between substrate 14 and 29.

[6, 18-21] "A reflection/absorber layer 35 functions to block or alternate ambient light and impinging light on spatial light modulator 10 and passing through openings or gaps 256 between mirrors..."

[4,14-21] The reflector/absorber layer provides optical shielding for the plurality of electrical circuits from ambient and impinging light.

In view of the changes to the claims and the remarks herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the above-identified application. If the Examiner wishes to discuss the application further, or if additional information would be required, the undersigned will cooperate fully to assist in the prosecution of this application.

Please charge any fee necessary to enter this paper to deposit account 09-0468.

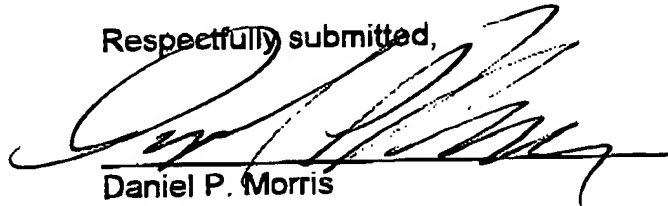
If the above-identified Examiner's Action is a final Action, and if the above-identified application will be abandoned without further action by applicants, applicants file a Notice of Appeal to the Board of Appeals and Interferences appealing the final rejection of the claims in the above-identified Examiner's Action. Please charge deposit account 09-0468 any fee necessary to enter such Notice of Appeal.

In the event that this amendment does not result in allowance of all such claims, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone interview at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

MPEP 713.01 states in part as follows:

Where the response to a first complete action includes a request for an interview or a telephone consultation to be initiated by the examiner, ... the examiner, as soon as he or she has considered the effect of the response, should grant such request if it appears that the interview or consultation would result in expediting the case to a final action.

Respectfully submitted,



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